

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 STR-08

CEA-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /176 W
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R 100712Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0725

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SN

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER LEE TO VISIT UK

1. NEW NATION CARRIED REPORT DATELINED LONDON
JUNE 7 THAT PRIME MINISTER LEE WILL LEAVE SINGAPORE
ABOUT JUNE 17 FOR VISIT TO UK. ALTHOUGH LENGTH
OF VISIT WAS NOT SPECIFIED, NEW NATION NOTED THAT
LEE WOULD ATTEND HIS SON'S GRADUATION AT CAMBRIDGE
ON JUNE 21 AND SUBSEQUENTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE LONDON
MEETING OF THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. IT WAS
NOTED THAT THE LEADERS OF MANY OF THE 57 SOCIALIST
PARTIES IN THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD WOULD PROBABLY
MEET OVER THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 29 -30 AT PRIME
MINISTER WILSON'S COUNTRY RESIDENCE. (ACCORDING
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION, LEE WILL ACTUALLY LEAVE
SINGAPORE JUNE 16 AND REMAIN IN UK UNTIL JUNE 30.
HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENT
CONCERNING THIS VISIT OR ANY INFORMATION RE
PRECISE DATE OF LEE'S RETURN.)

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2. ARTICLE REPORTED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING

THAT LEE WOULD USE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CUTBACK OF BRITISH FORCES IN SINGAPORE AS WELL AS REVIEW OTHER ASPECTS OF BRITISH EAST OF SUEZ POLICY, EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR ASIAN COUNTRIES OF BRITAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET.

3. COMMENT: DEPUTY UK HIGH COMMISSIONER WATT EXPRESSED IRRITATION OVER ARTICLE, DESCRIBING IT AS INDISCREET AND TACTLESS. IN HIS VIEW STORY'S ACCURACY MADE IT ALL THE WORSE. ALTHOUGH WATTS DID NOT ELABORATE, IT WAS CLEAR HE THOUGH " DIPLOMATIC SOURCE" IN UK SHOULD HAVE REFRAINED FROM MENTIONING VISIT UNTIL IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY GOS, AND THAT LEE WOULD NOT APPRECIATE ANY ADVANCE PUBLICITY THAT MIGHT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS TRAVELING TO UK TO PLEAD WITH HMG TO LEAVE FORCES IN SINGAPORE.
GRANT

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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